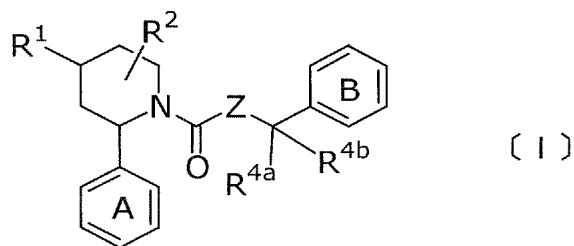


Amendments to the Claims

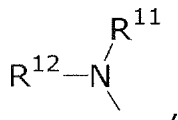
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) Piperidine compound represented by the formula [I]:



wherein Ring A and Ring B each represents a benzene ring optionally substituted by halogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl optionally substituted with fluoro groups~~a substituent(s),~~ Ring B ~~represents a benzene ring optionally substituted by a substituent(s),~~ R<sup>1</sup> represents an optionally substituted alkyl group, an optionally substituted hydroxyl group, a substituted thiol group, a substituted carbonyl group, a substituted sulfinyl group, a substituted sulfonyl group, or a group represented by the formula:



$R^{11}$  represents a substituted carbonyl group or a substituted sulfonyl group,  $R^{12}$  represents hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group,  $R^2$  represents hydrogen atom, Z represents ~~oxygen atom or a~~ group represented by -N( $R^3$ )-,  $R^3$  represents a methyl group,  $R^{4a}$  represents a methyl group,  $R^{4b}$  represents a methyl group,  
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 2. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein  $R^1$  is an optionally substituted alkyl group.

Claim 3. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein  $R^1$  is a an optionally substituted hydroxyl group.

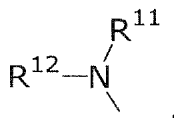
Claim 4. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein  $R^1$  is thiol group substituted by a substituent(s).

Claim 5. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein  $R^1$  is a substituted carbonyl group.

Claim 6. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein  $R^1$  is a substituted sulfinyl group.

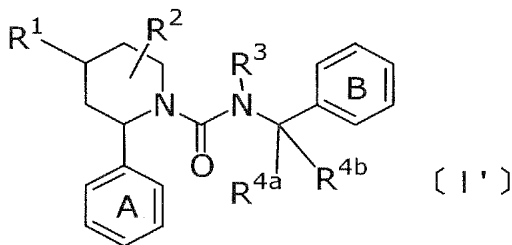
Claim 7. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein  $R^1$  is a substituted sulfonyl group.

Claim 8. (Original) The compound according to Claim 1, wherein  $R^1$  is a group represented by the formula:

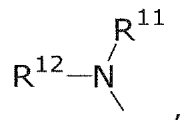


$R^{11}$  represents a substituted carbonyl group or a substituted sulfonyl group, and  $R^{12}$  represents hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a piperidine compound represented by the formula [I']:

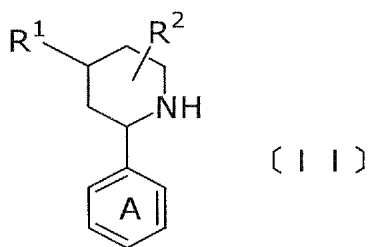


wherein each of Ring A and Ring B represents an a  
benzene ring optionally substituted with halogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl  
optionally substituted with fluoro groups ~~benzene ring, Ring B~~  
~~represents an optionally substituted benzene ring,  $R^1$~~   
~~represents an optionally substituted alkyl group, an~~  
~~optionally substituted hydroxyl group, a substituted thiol~~  
~~group, a substituted carbonyl group, a substituted sulfinyl~~  
~~group, a substituted sulfonyl group, or a group represented by~~  
the formula:

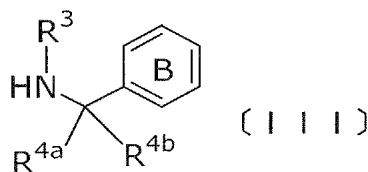


$\text{R}^{11}$  represents a substituted carbonyl group or a substituted sulfonyl group,  $\text{R}^{12}$  represents hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group,  $\text{R}^2$  represents hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydroxyl group, an optionally substituted amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, a substituted carbonyl group or a halogen atom,  $\text{R}^3$  represents hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group,  $\text{R}^{4a}$  represents an optionally substituted alkyl group,  $\text{R}^{4b}$  represents an optionally substituted alkyl group,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which comprises reacting a compound represented by the formula [II]:



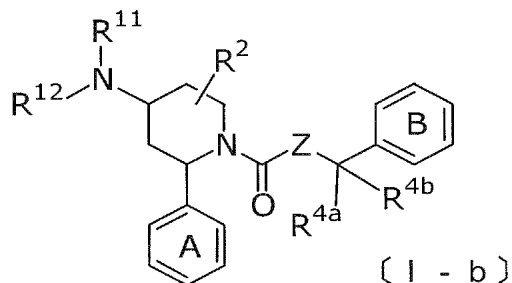
wherein Ring A,  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  have the same meanings as defined above, and a compound represented by the formula [III]:



wherein Ring B,  $R^3$ ,  $R^{4a}$  and  $R^{4b}$  have the same meanings as defined above,

in the presence of a urea bond forming agent, and then optionally, converting it into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, ~~if necessary~~.

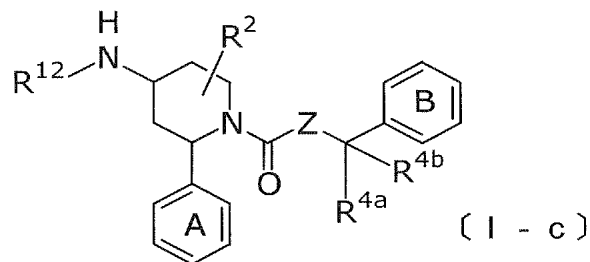
Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a piperidine compound represented by the formula [I-b]:



wherein Ring A and Ring B each represents an optionally substituted a benzene ring optionally substituted with halogen or  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl optionally substituted with fluoro groups, ~~Ring B represents an optionally substituted benzene ring~~,  $R^{11}$  represents a substituted carbonyl group or a substituted sulfonyl group,  $R^{12}$  represents hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group,  $R^2$  represents hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydroxyl group, an optionally substituted amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group, a substituted carbonyl group or a halogen atom, Z

represents ~~oxygen atom or~~ a group represented by  $-N(R^3)-$ ,  $R^3$  represents hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group,  $R^{4a}$  represents an optionally substituted alkyl group,  $R^{4b}$  represents an optionally substituted alkyl group,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which comprises reacting a compound represented by the formula [I-c]:



wherein Ring A, Ring B,  $R^{12}$ ,  $R^2$ , Z,  $R^{4a}$  and  $R^{4b}$  have the same meanings as defined above,

and a compound represented by the formula [VI]:



wherein  $R^{11}$  has the same meaning as defined above, and  $X^2$  represents an eliminating group,

and then optionally, converting it into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, ~~if necessary~~.